



**APRIL 2004**

**Editor, Bill Carr – Virginia Beach**

### *A Message from our President, Barbara Goodman...*



**What's in it for me?** This is the question asked time and again when people are approached about joining an organization. If a person is looking for something material, there might be organizational trinkets. However, most often, the benefits are intangible.

For instance, the Legislative Committee of VAPT tracks all bills that are presented during each session of the Virginia General Assembly. Some of the bills, if passed, could have significant impact on a local school division, pupil transportation in particular. The Legislative Committee works collaboratively with the committees for Resolution and Position Papers to prepare factual information in the form of resolutions or fact sheets that are distributed to a variety of individuals.

For example, at the end of the legislative session bills requiring lap/shoulder belts in school buses or requiring the use of bio-diesel fuel for school buses may have passed or failed. Most people never know the difference. However, due to the efforts of key VAPT people, the position of the pupil transportation industry is heard. VAPT's position often prevails.

**What's in it for you?** Collectively, one voice represents pupil transportation in Virginia. That voice represents a professional pupil transportation organization that has become respected in the pupil transportation industry. A voice that is sought on important pupil transportation issues. Everyone reaps the benefits; not just the VAPT members.

**What's in it for you?** You may have an opportunity for your son, daughter, or grandchild to compete for a college scholarship. VAPT Board members and committees have spent countless hours setting up the scholarship criteria and fund to ensure that integrity and fiduciary responsibility are upheld. Everyone reaps the benefits; not just the VAPT members.

**What's in it for you?** The benefit of collaboration with the state on school bus specifications and technical issues, participating in the state-wide school bus road-e-o; having a web site to visit for up-to-date information; participating in the school bus poster contest with winning

posters depicted in a school bus safety calendar; or receiving the newsletter, the “Voice and Vision for VAPT.” Everyone reaps the benefits; not just the VAPT members.

With an organization such as VAPT there are responsibilities such as planning the annual conference; managing the assets; conducting audits; preparing reports for the IRS; maintaining a budget and membership; handling nominations; constitution and bylaws; writing and distributing newsletters; and working on special projects, such as charter bus guidelines, the Hall of Fame, or the organization’s history.

The men and women of VAPT have “jumped in” to do the work of VAPT. They haven’t asked, what’s in it for me?” Yes, you can reap many of the benefits without ever becoming a member. By joining, you are supporting the mission and values of VAPT. The \$15 membership fee is a small price for the number of benefits you are receiving already.

By the way, today I received the “VAPT Emergency Contact List” prepared by **Tim Parker**, one of VAPT’s past presidents and a member who continues to serve in many capacities. I would not hesitate to say that many school divisions in the state have used this list at one time or another. This one item is worth the price of a membership. **WON’T YOU JOIN TODAY?** An application can be found on the last page.

### **VAPT WEBSITE NEWS –**

We are pleased to announce that **Bianca Rohland**, Region Computerized Route Coordinator for Stafford County Schools, has been named our Website Curator replacing Ernie Greene, who did a great job with the Website. Bianca has already revamped the Website with a fresh new look. Check it out and let her know of your interests and your appreciation for her efforts on behalf of our Association.

#### **Website:**

**<http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/Finance/VAPT/index.htm>**

### **VAPT’S Clyde W. Morris Memorial Scholarship**

#### **INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING THE SCHOLARSHIP**

1. The recipient of the \$1,000 scholarship will be a Virginia public school senior who has a parent or grandparent employed in a public school pupil transportation field in the Commonwealth of Virginia.
2. Selection of applicants will be based on the following criteria:
  - Scholarship – The student shall have a MINIMUM cumulative grade point average of 3.0 (grades 9-11).
  - Leadership – The student shall have demonstrated outstanding leadership skills and abilities in co-curricular activities and community service activities.
  - Citizenship – The student shall have demonstrated exemplary citizenship qualities that include maturity, loyalty, responsibility,

integrity, and trustworthiness and a concern for the well being of all citizens.

- Service – The student shall have rendered unselfish service and assistance to others, to the school, and to the community.
- Essay – The student shall have explained in a typewritten essay of not more than 500 words why he or she applied for the scholarship and if named the recipient how the scholarship would be used.

**APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE FROM EACH LOCAL  
TRANSPORTATION OFFICE**

When the application is completed, it should be submitted to the local Scholarship selection committee Chairperson or the local Supervisor or Director of Transportation.

A selection committee established at each locality shall select from all local applicants a finalist whose application must be submitted to the VAPT Selection Committee Chairman, **David Pace**, Director of Transportation, Virginia Beach City Public Schools, 2650 Leroy Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23456 **no later than April 30, 2004**. Application may be faxed to David at (757) 426-5099.

**Who is Jim Ransom?**



Jim is the new Region 1 VAPT Board member. Back in December 2003 he was elected to complete the term of retiring Jim Tucker of Richmond. As the Manager of Pupil Transportation in Petersburg he has over 20 years in the business of moving students. It all started when he drove a church Sunday school bus, then later worked part-time as a school bus driver with Virginia Overland. Following this, he drove as a shuttle driver on a transit bus from Petersburg to Richmond. Shortly thereafter he was appointed the Charter Bus Supervisor for Virginia Overland, which required driving charter coaches. Ask him to tell you about some of his many interesting groups and trips. Jim worked out of Richmond and he made a move to Virginia Commonwealth University as Transportation Supervisor.

Born a “Tarheel” in the small town of Warrenton, North Carolina. Jim began his college years at Virginia State (now University) in Petersburg then later joined the U.S. Air Force for a 4 ½ year tour as a pharmacy technician which took him from Texas to Washington, D.C. then 3 years in Japan. He still can speak a little Japanese, but it’s with a southern accent. Once Jim returned to the USA he earned his B.S. degree at Virginia State.

Prior to service in Japan he got married. Jim and his wonderful wife, Jeanette, had a lovely daughter, Jerreke and on the bottom of her foot is “made in Japan.” They also have a son, “Jim Jr.,” who was born in the USA. Both children are grown, have good jobs and last October Jerreke and her husband, Alec, caused Jim to become “Grandpa!”

As the Manager of Pupil Transportation in a small, but challenging division there are many hats Jim has to wear: driving a school bus, a trainer, CPR and first aid instructor, third party tester for DMV, weekend duty.... One of Jim’s best lines to people is “Hurry up and take your time!”

### **Pupil Transportation Scholarship Established at Virginia Tech**

**Sonny Merryman, Inc. of Lynchburg** – one of our state’s leading school bus dealers has established a special scholarship fund at Virginia Tech to benefit students whose parents or grandparents are employed in Virginia’s public pupil transportation community. The first scholarship worth \$2,500 will be presented this spring to a deserving graduating senior from a public high school in the Commonwealth who plans to attend Virginia Tech.

Beyond the student’s direct affiliation with public pupil transportation in Virginia, first preference for the scholarship award will be based on financial need. Other criteria will include academic achievement, community service and individual character.

Providing educational opportunities to young people whose families have helped our company grow over the past thirty-seven years is an ideal way for us to express our gratitude to all the school bus folks across Virginia”, says corporate Chairman of the Board, F.W. “Sonny” Merryman, Jr., “The school bus business has been so very good to us and this is a great opportunity for us to give something back.”

The Merryman family has a long history of support for higher education in Virginia. In addition to the new pupil transportation scholarship, a number of other scholarship funds have been established to assist students in acquiring the financial resources required for a college education. “Helping young people get a college education is a

sound investment in our country's future. We're delighted to be able to provide the scholarships we do," adds Merryman.

Eligible students interested in applying for scholarship should complete and submit the Virginia Tech General Scholarship Application Form found on-line at <http://www.finaid.vt.edu>. **The scholarship application deadline is April 30, 2004.** Interested? Please contact **Dean Farmer** 800-533-1006 x308 or email him at [dean@sonnymerryman.com](mailto:dean@sonnymerryman.com)

## **SCHOOL BUS SAFETY POSTER CONTEST**

**Poster Theme: Flashing Red Means Stop Ahead**

Just a friendly reminder from **Margaret Rayner**, Chairperson of the Poster Contest Committee, the deadline for submitting your winning posters is no later than April 30, 2004.

All school divisions may enter and anyone who needs the contest rules may obtain them by contacting Margaret at [mrayner@hopewellk12.va.us](mailto:mrayner@hopewellk12.va.us) or call her at (804) 541-6418.

### **Mail all posters to:**

Margaret Rayner  
Hopewell City Public Schools  
Transportation Department  
100 Terminal Street  
Hopewell, VA 23860

**VAPT APPLICATION FORMS** ARE IN THE CONFERENCE PACKETS FOR THOSE ATTENDING. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO AVOID WAITING IN LINE AT THE CONFERENCE YOU SHOULD COMPLETE THE APPLICATION FORM ON **PAGE 8** AND FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS AT THE TOP OF THE FORM.

## ***News from NASDPT.....***

**The National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation** received a letter recently from the United States Environmental Protection Agency advising that Earth Day will be celebrated on April 22, 2004, in communities across the Nation.

EPA commented that it was aware of some communities that were including the Clean School Bus USA program in their Earth Day activities. Accordingly, the EPA is developing materials that you could use for such an event.

The Clean School Bus Earth Day Kit will contain information designed to help with planning the event, such as templates for certificates of recognition, ideas for activities, a local proclamation, and more. These materials are currently available at:

[www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus](http://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus)

The website also provides contact information for EPA personnel in each region of the country for additional information or assistance.

## **Virginia School Bus Road-e-o**

**Drivers, start your engines!  
Get geared up for the  
Virginia School Bus Road-e-o.**

**When:** Monday, June 21, 2004  
**Where:** Deep Run High School in Henrico County  
**Time:** The driving part begins at noon  
**Categories:** Conventional and Transit school buses AND awards will be given in both categories.

This event will be held in conjunction with the VAPT/DOE state conference. The goal of the road-e-o is to reduce the number of crashes/incidents by increasing a driver's knowledge and strengthening their driving skills. It also helps to build a positive image of school bus drivers and gives the driver a feeling of pride in the service they provide to their community.

For this event to be successful, it will need the support of the area transportation directors and supervisors. Make plans now to give your locality some recognition by sending a driver to participate in this year's Virginia School Bus Road-e-o. The experience of competing, meeting drivers from other localities and discussing problems and solutions to problems can only have a positive effect.

Should you need additional information you may call any Road-e-o Committee member. Telephone numbers are on the VAPT web site (web address may be found in another section of the newsletter) along with road-e-o rules, regulations and event descriptions.

**Note:** Rear windows on school buses will be covered with an opaque material for the cone course to encourage drivers to use the outside

mirrors. This can easily be accomplished for local competitions by using cardboard or thick paper taped over windows or large trashcan liners with magnets.

### **Directions to the Road-e-o Site at Deep Run High School**

**From I-295:** (toward Charlottesville. Take the Nuckols Road North Exit off of I-295. **Turn left** at the first stoplight, Twin Hickory Road. The school is approximately one mile on the right.

**From I-64 W:** Take the Short Pump Exit, which will put you on Hwy 250 West, Broad Street. **Pass** Best Buy, Kroger, and Wal-Mart on the right. Just past Wal-Mart make a **right turn** onto Pouncey Tract Road. Just after crossing the I-295 overpass, make a **right turn** onto Twin Hickory Lake Drive. Follow Twin Hickory Lake Drive until it dead ends at a stoplight. Deep Run High School will be directly in front.

If you need additional information or have any questions please contact the Road-e-o Chairperson, **Sharon Utley** at [Sharon\\_Utley@ccpsnet.net](mailto:Sharon_Utley@ccpsnet.net).

### **RECORD BREAKING SCHOOL BUS ROAD-E-O**

School Bus drivers from the Prince William County Public Schools (PWCPS) joined the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) drivers in the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual PWCPS-FCPS School Bus Road-e-o on April 16 at Westfield High School. A Special Education Road-e-o was conducted at the same time for driver and attendant teams. **Martha Chesak** was the overall winner giving Fairfax County bragging-rights for the year. Over 125 drivers or driver/attendant teams participated.

### **Virginia Beach is boasting, again!**

They have three drivers who each have driven a school bus for **forty years**. Can anybody top this? If your division has someone who has driven a school bus for 40 or more years please write a brief article and send it to **Bill Carr**, editor at [bcarr@vbcps.k12.va.us](mailto:bcarr@vbcps.k12.va.us) to be included in a future edition of our newsletter. Rumor has it that Mecklenburg County can top Virginia Beach. Dwight, if that is true please send in an article. Now, I understand Virginia Beach is going to include a picture of their drivers and their school buses.



## **VAPT 2004-2005 MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL APPLICATION**



**New Member?** Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Please send your completed application including a check in the amount of **\$15.00** per member to cover membership dues to: **Mr. Willie Smith, VAPT Treasurer, Albemarle County Public Schools, Transportation Office, 110 Lambs Lane, Charlottesville, VA 22901**

**\*Type of Membership:** (circle one) Administrative Associate Honorary

**Form of Address:** (circle one) Dr. Mr. Mrs. Ms Miss

**Name: (Last)** \_\_\_\_\_ **(First)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Employment Title:** (circle one) Director Assistant Director Supervisor \*Other

**\*Other** (please be specific) \_\_\_\_\_

**School Division:** \_\_\_\_\_ (circle one) City/County, Region# \_\_\_\_\_

**OR Organization:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address:** (P.O. Box or Street/Hwy) \_\_\_\_\_  
(City) \_\_\_\_\_ (State) \_\_\_\_\_ (Zip Code) \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail**

**Address:** (Home) (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail** \_\_\_\_\_ **Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Business) \_\_\_\_\_

**Circle the E-MAIL ADDRESS you would like the VAPT newsletter sent.**

**Business Telephone:** (include area code) \_\_\_\_\_

**Business Fax:** (include area code) \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Use Telephone Numbers** in the event another VAPT member needs assistance while in your area: (include area code) Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

**VAPT STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES:** Please circle the committees listed below if you are interested in serving on that committee.

Audit Conference Constitution/By-Laws Legislative Membership Nominating  
Resolution Scholarship Newsletter Position Papers Poster Contest School Bus  
Road-e-o

**\*Types of Memberships:**

**Administrative:** personnel in pupil transportation such as directors, assistant directors, supervisors, assistant supervisors, and chief/foreman mechanics. Also, personnel whose responsibilities and duties are related to pupil transportation in some administrative or supervisory capacity, i.e. superintendent, DOE personnel supervisors.

**Associate:** members whose primary concentration of interest includes the safe transportation of children in the Commonwealth of Virginia, i.e. school bus body and chassis representatives and others directly associated with or concerned with the objectives of the Association.

**Honorary:** former Administrative members retired in the field of pupil transportation, i.e. former presidents of VAPT.

### **FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**

RECEIPT/MEMBERSHIP NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

Application received by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date received: \_\_\_\_\_

Fee received by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date received: \_\_\_\_\_ Amt. received: \_\_\_\_\_

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Date posted by treasurer: \_\_\_\_\_, Date posted to the Membership listing: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE DO NOT WRITE IN THIS BOX**